

REMARKS

Claims 1-4, 6-11 and 16-25 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 1 and 2 are amended and claim 5 is canceled.

I. The Claims Define Patentable Subject Matter

Claims 1-4, 6-10, 16, 17 and 19-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Publication No. 2003/007133 to Notagashira; claims 5 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Notagashira in view of U.S. Publication No.2004/0114249 to Nishihara et al.; and claim 11 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over Notagashira in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,280,038 to Fuse et al. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

None of the applied art teaches, discloses or suggests a plurality of incident side transparent members made of a thermal conductive material which are interposed between respective members of the light flux incident end surfaces and the light modulating devices, and are connected to the light modulating devices with at least two incident side transparent members being different in thermal resistance, and a pedestal provided in at least one end surface of end surfaces crossing the light flux incident end surfaces of the color synthesizing optical device and made of a thermal conductive material with the incident side transparent members being connected to side surfaces of the pedestal, as claimed in claim 1 and similarly claimed in claim 2.

The Examiner admits that Notagashira does not disclose the pedestal provided in at least one end surface of end surfaces crossing the light flux incident end surfaces of the color synthesizing optical device and made of a thermal conductive material, the incident side transparent members being connected to side surfaces of the pedestal. However, the Examiner asserts that Nishihara discloses these features. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

Nishihara discloses that "the polarizing plate 9 is fixed to the phase difference plate 10, the phase difference plate 10 is fixed to the glass sheet 15, the glass sheet 15 is fixed to the incident surface of the dichroic prism 2, and the dichroic prism 2 is fixed to the upper plate 4 and the lower plate 5" and "the polarizing plate 9 is fixed to the phase difference plate 10, the phase difference plate 10 is fixed to the glass sheet 15, the glass sheet 15 is fixed to the plate spring 17, the plate spring 17 is fixed to the metal hold plate 3, and the metal hold plate 3 is fixed to the upper plate 4 and the lower plate 5." Please see paragraph [0040], [0041] and Figure 8 of Nishihara.

Accordingly, the radiation path of the heat generated in the polarizing plate 9 is from the plate 9 to the phase difference plate 10 to the glass sheet 15 then to the dichroic prism 2 and then the upper plate 4 and lower plate 5. Further, the radiation path is from the polarizing plate 9 to the phase difference plate 10, the glass sheet 15, the plate spring 17, the metal hold plate 3 and then to the upper plate 4 and the lower plate 5. As such, the thermal resistance between the polarizing plate 9 and the upper plate 4 and lower plate 5 is very high. Therefore, it is not possible to enhance or improve the cooling efficiency of the polarizing plate 9. Notagashira and Fuse et al. do not make up for the deficiencies of Nishihara discussed above.

In contrast, for example, paragraphs [0132], [0133] and Figure 9 of the present application, the polarizing plate 443 is connected to the side surface of the pedestals 445 with the elastic members therebetween. Accordingly, the radiation path of the heat generated in the polarizing plate 443 is the polarizing plate 443, the elastic members 448 and then the pedestals 445. As a result, the thermal resistance between the polarizing plate 443 and the pedestals 445 is low. Thus, it is possible to enhance the cooling efficiency of the polarizing plate 443. The applied art does not teach or suggest the features of the claims discussed

above, and therefore cannot provide the advantages of the present application. Withdrawal of the rejection of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §102 and §103 is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



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